



## Meet the new City Administrator and Mayor



City of Burlington welcomes **Bryan Harrison** as the new City Administrator. We asked Bryan to share a little information about himself, his family and thoughts on Burlington:

### Introduction:

**Bryan Harrison** I have spent the last 23 years living and working in Pacific County (on the Washington coast), most recently serving as the Pacific County Administrator.

My wife Carol and I have three children. Daughter Andrea is in graduate school at the University of Houston. Our two sons (Bryan, Jr. and Thomas) are in the eighth grade. Carol is a Junior High science teacher. She and the boys will be finishing out the school year in South Bend and relocating to Burlington in June. The boys will be attending ninth grade at Burlington-Edison High School next fall.

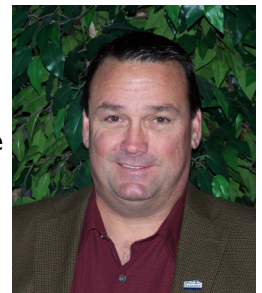
### What drew you to Burlington?

Burlington is the perfect size for me and my family. Large enough to have all the amenities you could ask for and yet small enough that everyone is on a first name basis. The City is a well run organization with enough challenges to keep the job interesting, and yet small enough that one person can make a positive contribution.

*continued on page 2*

As we ring in a New Year, I am honored to begin serving as Mayor for the city of Burlington. One of the first things I would like to do is to thank Mayor Brunz for his service to our city. In addition, Council member Joanne Valentine recently retired after 16 years of service on the City Council and also deserves our thanks.

With these changes, we will welcome a new council



**Steve Sexton**

member, Rick DeGloria and also will be taking applications to fill the Council Member At Large position. Anyone interested in this soon to be vacant position should contact City Hall at 755-0531 for more information.

The upcoming year offers an exciting mix of challenges and opportunities. As our sales tax revenues appear to have started to rebound, at least for the time being, City Administrator Bryan Harrison, the City Council, and I

continue to analyze the most stable path to return some of the services that were cut back in recent years while building a long term strategy for projects visible on the horizon.

Citizen input as we look forward is valued by us all. Please do not hesitate to give us a call or stop by City Hall. We also look forward to your participation in our Town Hall meetings that will be held next Spring and Fall.

“...This is a very welcoming community. I can't say enough about how Burlington welcomes new folks to the community...”

Bryan Harrison



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE -

Four years have come and gone and it seems like yesterday. It has been a pleasure to have been your mayor, an experience I will never forget.

Burlington will always be a part of me, and I want to thank the staff at the city for walking along side me, making Burlington a better place for all.

**Mayor Ed Brunz**

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### **Bryan Harrison — *continued from page 1***

#### **What do you see as the biggest challenge for Burlington?**

The biggest challenge for the City is to make sure that we are strategic in directing City resources to address the greatest needs in the most efficient manner. As we slowly recover from this recession, the needs continue to outweigh the resources and we can't afford to be inefficient. Because the position of City Administrator has been vacant for some time, we also need to work on organizational development and to focus on making sure the entire team is working together in a common direction.

#### **What do you like best about Burlington?**

Just about everything.

This is a very welcoming community. I can't say enough about how Burlington welcomes new folks to the community.

The City staff is talented and dedicated. The Mayor and Council are engaged in issues and committed to making Burlington a great place to live and do business.

I may be the only person to move to Burlington for the big city life and sunny days (we are coming from a very small town that gets 90" of rain per year).

#### **What goals do you have for Burlington?**

The first goal is to develop goals. Early in 2012 I will be working with the Mayor, department heads, and Council to establish citywide and department levels goals. The intent is to have these goals drive the development of the City's main policy document (the budget), rather than the reverse.

## Happy Retirement



**Joanne Valentine** will be retiring after serving 16 years on the Burlington City Council, representing Ward #3. Joanne stated she has enjoyed every minute of her time spent on city issues, both the good and the challenging matters. She is very proud of all the projects the city has accomplished in that time such as the new construction of the Fire Department, Public Safety (Police & Court), Library and City Hall, as well as the replacement of the Old 99 Bridge and the future Regional Byway Center at Railroad Park. Downtown issues have always important to Joanne she and looks forward to the hanging flower baskets on Fairhaven Avenue returning next spring and keeping the Christmas decorations well maintained. Joanne will continue to keep busy on various committees such as the Burlington Parks Foundation and will soon be taking a much needed break traveling to the Panama Canal.

Thank you Joanne for all your time, commitment and hard work during these 16 years. Your energy was well spent and we wish you a very happy retirement.

**Be sure to read through the *Fall Flood Bulletin* at the end of this newsletter. to keep up to date on the latest flood and emergency preparedness information.**

**REMEMBER: To be prepared and STAY prepared!**

# 2012 Burlington -



The community centerpiece for historic Downtown Burlington will be under construction at Railroad Park in 2012. Key components include lots of public event space in and around the replica of the original Burlington Train Station, public meeting space, the regional Visitor Information Center with a focus on the 5 Scenic Byways that connect here, public restrooms, and a touch of transportation history (soon to be looking for an antique rail car or two!).

The long awaited Regional Non-Motorized Plan is in development with the great staff and technical support of the Skagit Council of Governments and Burlington is a major participant. A key east-west link, building a trail under I-5 at Cascade Mall next to Gages Slough, has grant funding and will be in design. Detailing out the best routes through and around Burlington, both short term and long term, will be a task for the community and neighbors in the county.

On the table for 2012 and beyond is designing a sustainable framework for the retail core in the I-5 corridor, including a community visioning process that looks at infill and redevelopment, delivering the "green goods" such as clean stormwater to the Skagit River and Puget Sound, affordable housing to ensure good living conditions for the work force, and staying involved as a key partner in the region.

Burlington has great partners who are committed to working together, including our business community represented by the Chamber of Commerce, our residents who know this is a positive place to live and work, and regional partners working together for environmental and resource protection who recognize the critical importance of high quality urban areas to support jobs and housing.

The city is committed to taking care of the urban environment, and planning with the community to make Burlington the BEST place to be for generations to come. Now is the time to set the plan in place to provide for the long term sustainability of the community, with goals including building a green future, using low impact development techniques, encouraging non-motorized options and transit oriented development, looking at more affordable housing choices and enhancing the built environment. More life, not less, building a vital future with a solid economy!!!



## Welcome New Councilman



**Rick DeGloria** was recently elected to the City Council and will replace Joanne Valentine in the Ward 3 seat. Rick has lived in Burlington for 33 years and is married to Ronda (Johnson). They have 4 grown children and keep very busy with their 7 grandchildren.

Rick is a semi-retired local business man, a retired United States Army Veteran and will retire in January from the Civil Service Board after serving 26 years!

We would like to extend Rick a hearty welcome to the city council and thank you for his dedication and years of service on the Civil Service Board.

## Are we looking for you?

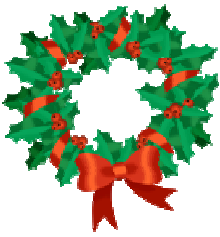


## The Civil Service Board is

If you are interested in serving on the Civil Service Board, the Mayor's office will be taking applications in January 2012.

Please give them a call at (360) 755-0531 for information on qualifications and the application process.





# Holiday Season Shopping Safety



## Vehicle Safety Tips

\* Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lighted space. Lock the car and close all windows.



\* Return to your vehicle periodically to check on it. This will help to reduce the amount of packages you are carrying and must keep track of.

\* Store packages in the trunk of your vehicle or if you do not have one, place the items out of plain view (the floorboard or under a blanket, clothes, etc.)

\* When returning to your vehicle, have your keys in hand and ready to open the door. If you feel like you are being followed, return to the store and contact security.

\* Stay alert and do not allow yourself to become distracted, especially when loading items in to or out of the vehicle, or while arranging packages.

\* If you are approached and feel threatened, get into your car and lock the doors. Do not hesitate to call 911. If they loiter, drive away.

\* Before entering your vehicle, carefully check the front and rear seats and floors for anyone who may be hiding there.

\* Lock your doors immediately after entering your vehicle.

## Shopping Safety Tips

\* Let someone know where you plan to do your shopping and what time you anticipate returning.



\* If possible, shop with friends or relatives. There is safety in numbers.

\* Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.

\* Dress comfortably and casually, and be extra careful with purses and wallets.

\* Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases.

\* Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. If someone grabs your purse **LET IT GO**. Your safety is more important than the property.

\* Carry minimal cash and valuables, preferably in your front pockets. Wear a minimal amount of jewelry.

\* When using public restrooms, be cautious. Try to avoid putting your purse on hooks or door handles.



\* As you shop, be alert in crowded places. Carry the day's most expensive purchases closest to your body. Do not carry so much that you lose the ability to react quickly.

## Shopping With Kids



\* Keep a close eye on your children while shopping. Do not allow children to play underneath clothing racks.

\* Accompany them to the restroom – don't let them go off by themselves.

\* Teach your children to go to a store clerk (the person mom or dad pay) or a security guard, if they ever get separated from you in a store or mall. Be sure they know their first and last name so they can tell someone who they are.

\* It is best to keep children under the age of 4 in a stroller. Children in shopping carts should be properly seated and belted in the child carrier area at all times. Never let your child stand in the cart or push a shopping cart.

\* For your teenagers, have a preplanned meeting time and place if you go in separate directions.



### **Remember that children have limits.**

Be alert to their needs: are they tired, hungry, overexcited by the noise and confusion, or simply in need of fresh air and exercise? Their needs could draw your attention away just long enough for the criminal to take the opportunity to victimize you. If possible, leave your children with a babysitter while you are shopping; consider making arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors. Better yet, take turns babysitting!



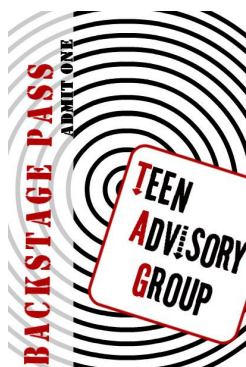
**2012**  
**MEETING**  
**CALENDAR**

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
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29	30						27	<del>28</del>	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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														30	31					



## Would your teenager like to volunteer at the Burlington Public Library?

We're accepting applications for the **Teen Advisory Group**! The Teen Advisory Group meets once a month and teaches valuable leadership skills, looks great on a college application, and counts for high school P.A.W.S. credit. Teens in the group plan and promote teen library events, recommend books, and act as a voice for teens in the library. Stop by the library to pick up an application today!



### Upcoming Teen Advisory Group meetings:

Tuesday, January 3 3:30-5:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7 3:30-5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 6 3:30-5:00 pm

### Other fun Teen Events this winter include:

Every Monday 3:00 – 4:30 Wii Gaming

Friday, January 6 Talent Show

See the Burlington Public Library website for details about these and other library programs:

[www.burlington.lib.wa.us](http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us) or call 360-755-0760.

## Career Resource Center Opens

Anyone you know looking for a job? Now you can give them a real boost: send them to the library. Our **Career Resource Center** and staff are standing by to support their job search.

"We have people in the library every day who struggle to look for work," says Library Director Maggie Buckholz. "The hard truth is, if you can't use a computer, you can't apply for a job." One focus of the **CRC** is to give non-computer-users a boost in the skills they need both to look for, and succeed in, a job.

The **CRC** has a bank of computers dedicated to job seekers: three PCs and twelve laptops (for in-library use). "These computers don't have the one-hour-a-day time limit our regular Internet PCs have," explains Maggie.



The computers are available to people age 16 and over who are working on career-related activities. They contain specific resources for creating a resume or cover letter, learning basic computer skills, improving typing and keyboarding skills, increasing reading, writing, and math proficiencies, practicing for tests and exams, and more.

Beginning in January, the library will offer free classes to support job seekers and people who want to improve computer skills. Visit the website for more information: [www.burlington.lib.wa.us](http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us) or call 360-755-0760.



# This is *not* your mother's

# storytime



Story times at the Burlington Public Library are just as fun, interactive, and engaging as story times have always been. But under the surface, we're sneaking in *more*: more learning, more skills, and more fun.

Story times now include techniques designed to promote early literacy. They actually establish brain pathways for children to connect and absorb new information and concepts. Those new connections help them learn to read and understand mathematics. In addition, they learn vital social skills, like listening, following directions, and taking turns.

For just one example, here's what's *really* happening while we march around the alphabet rug singing *Here We Go Around the Letter*. The children are learning to:

- distinguish the different shapes of the letters
- hear and mimic the phonetic sounds (like /buh/ for the letter b)
- listen carefully to stop when the song ends
- wait patiently for their turn to pull another letter from the manila envelope to start another round of the song.



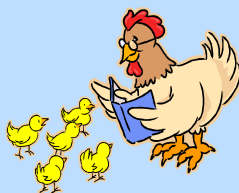
**Give your child the gift of library story time...**

...packed inside a fun time is learning that will make a difference their whole lives.

## Story Time Schedule

### Lapsit (Birth – 18 months)

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.  
January 3, 10, 17, 24,  
31 February 7



Reading readiness begins at birth! Cuddle up with your infant while listening to enchanting board books and singing soothing lullabies.

### Toddler Time (18 months – 3 years old)

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7

Timeless lullabies, interactive songs and finger plays to keep your toddler bouncing and learning in between brief picture books.

### Preschool Story Time (3 – 6 years old)

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.  
January 5, 12, 19, 26 & February 9

Fun, educational songs and games increase letter recognition. Well-crafted picture books expand vocabulary and concepts. This program helps prepare your child for kindergarten.

For more information, contact the Burlington Public Library at 820 East Washington Avenue, call 755-0760, or visit [www.burlington.lib.wa.us](http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us)

At the Burlington Public Library  
you can get **W.A.R.M.** with our  
**Winter Adult Reading Months**

*starting January 2012*

Books, contests, prizes: share your love  
of reading! Get more info @ your library.

[www.burlington.lib.wa.us](http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us)





# Parks Department

The Burlington Parks Department has been busy with capital projects in 2011. The largest of which has been the transformation of the old Grafton Museum site to the new and improved **Grafton Park**. This newly created park was completed in November 2011. The renovation includes a large water feature with a sitting area, new sod and irrigation along with fruit trees and landscaping. Parking is minimal within the park itself but the side street is available for parking as well. Thank you to Carrie and Curly Grafton for donating the property and endowment fund to make this park possible. Please drop by and enjoy the park during your holiday shopping. Ribbon cutting will be during the month of May once the storage building has been painted and the weather improves.

Thanks to a donation of \$20,000 from the NW United Soccer Club and the Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association, three new fields will be built off of Whitmarsh Road between the south entrance to Skagit River Park and the Horseshoe Complex. Skagit Dike District 12 has allowed us to use this area to build the fields. Parking areas are complete and the field itself will be re-tilled in the spring and planted prior to fencing going in. These new fields will allow us to keep league play continuous during the rainy season when fields to the north must be shut down. The new fields will drain better.



*Top Left: new sign*

*Middle: new water feature*

*Top Right: looking east*

## **GRAFTON PARK** *Renovations:*



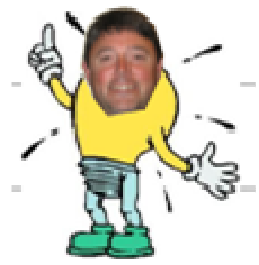
*Bottom Left: looking west*

*Bottom Right: looking  
northeast*



## Energy Conservation: saving your money

Energy conservation was a big focus for every city department this year. We motivated ourselves with two different contests: one county-wide competition, and one between city buildings. The Building and Grounds Department led the way by installing energy-saving heat/cooling systems and energy-efficient lighting in city buildings, and publishing an employee newsletter educating and urging staff to be proactive in saving energy on an individual level.



The results amazed everyone. As a city, Burlington thoroughly thumped all other county organizations. Comparing May-August energy consumption between 2010 and 2011, the City of Burlington **decreased energy use by 19.7%**. The closest runner-up, the Port of Skagit had a 9.7% decrease.



In decreasing energy use nearly 20%, we saved Burlington taxpayers an estimated \$6,300. In environmental terms, that's 2273 BTUs of energy, using less fossil fuel and creating fewer greenhouse gases.

We're proud of how well we steward public funds. In this case, we had some fun doing it: truly a win-win for everyone.

## Fire Department

On New Year's Eve, 1999, the Burlington Fire Department, in preparation for the possibilities of Y2K, had staffed an Emergency Operations Center at the Fire Station on Sharon Avenue. We had taken all precautions and felt that we were ready for whatever might happen. As we all remember . . . **nothing** happened. Were our efforts on that distant New Year's Eve in vain?

The Burlington Fire Department, as we did then, continues to plan for the emergency, for the disaster, for the crisis that could happen . . . not just those events that have historically occurred. The Fire Department has a trained technical rescue team that stays ready to respond to high-risk situations. A skilled confined space rescue team is trained, equipped and ready to respond. All our members are State certified Emergency Medical Technicians. We are equipped and capable of performing operations at hazardous materials incidents. Our firefighters are qualified to use extrication tools to free trapped victims of motor vehicle accidents. Every Fire Department member knows how to safely and effectively use the myriad hand and power tools common to our profession.

We have two first-line fire engines and a 100' aerial ladder truck . . . even though we generally use just a single fire engine on the majority of emergency calls. There are firefighter/emergency medical technicians on duty at the Burlington Fire Station twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Sometimes they go hours without a call for emergency service. Sometimes we get two or three calls within a five minute period. We never know but we're ready.


Do we who were there regret sacrificing our celebration on that almost-forgotten New Year's Eve in 1999? No regrets. The **Burlington Fire Department is all about being well prepared** for those familiar emergencies that we can expect on any given day. And, we are anxiously engaged in remaining trained, equipped and ready (within reasonable limits) for anything that could happen.

*Glen Staheli  
Fire Chief*



# Upcoming Parks & Recreation Programs

## WINTER FUN!



Visit our  
website for full  
details!

### DECEMBER

**21 & 22** — Santa's Gift Workshop for Kids 6-12 yrs  
**27 & 28** — Two Day Winter Adventure Camp 6-12 yrs  
**29** — Babysitting Basics Class  
**Thursday Evenings** — Hatha Yoga Class

### JANUARY

**4, 11, 18, 25** — Watercolor Class for Kids  
**10, 17, 24, 31** — Basic Cartooning for Kids  
**5, 12, 19, 26** — Hatha Yoga  
**20** — Friday Night Scrapbooking Crop  
**21** — All Day Scrapbooking Crop  
**25** — Business Excel Class

### FEBRUARY

**1, 8, 15, 22** — Kidz Love Soccer-Indoor (NEW!)  
**2, 9, 16, 23** — Hatha Yoga  
**3** — Daddy Daughter Dance  
**5** — Women's Self Defense Class  
**8, 15, 22, 29** — Watercolor Class for Kids  
**7, 14, 21, 28** — Basic Cartooning for Kids  
**10 & 11** — Twenty Seven Hour Scrapbooking Crop  
**17** — Babysitting Basics with Camp Fire USA

### **For complete details, times, & fees:**

- ▶ visit our website <http://recreation.ci.burlington.wa>
- ▶ call us Monday-Friday 360-755-9649
- ▶ email [recreation@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:recreation@ci.burlington.wa.us)
- ▶ Stop by the Burlington Parks and Recreation Center  
900 E. Fairhaven Avenue



## SPRING FUN!



REGISTER  
TODAY!

### MARCH

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29** — Hatha Yoga  
**6, 13, 20, 27** — Basic Cartooning for Kids  
**7, 14, 21, 28** — Kidz Love Soccer-Indoor (NEW!)  
**7, 14, 21, 28** — Watercolor Class for Kids  
**16** — Friday Night Scrapbooking Crop  
**17** — St Patrick's Day Scrapbooking Crop

### APRIL

**First Week** — Spring Break Programs  
**10, 17, 24 & May 1** — Basic Cartooning for Kids  
**5, 12, 19, 26** — Hatha Yoga  
**11, 18, 25 & May 2** — Watercolor Class for Kids  
**14** — Kids Giant Garage Sale (It's back!)  
**20 & 21** — Spring Garden and Gift Show  
**22** — Plant and Garden Tool Swap  
**28** — Scrapbooking Swap Meet

### MAY

**9, 16, 23, 30** — Watercolor for Kids  
**8, 15, 22, 29** — Basic Cartooning for Kids  
**3, 10, 17, 24, 31** — Hatha Yoga  
**Wednesday's** — Watercolor for Kids  
**12** — NEW! Mom Prom  
**18** — Friday Night Scrapbooking Crop  
**19** — All Day Scrapbooking Crop

### COMING IN JUNE!

**13** — All Comer Track Meet Opening Night  
**16** — Berry Dairy Days Event:  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Children's Craft Fair!!!!



# Burlington Flood Issues Update, Fall 2011

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1. **FEMA Flood Map Appeal**
2. **Skagit River Hydrology**
3. **Dike 12 Levee Certification**
4. **Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study**
5. **Potential BNSF Skagit River Bridge Replacement**
6. **Flood Storage in the Baker Hydroelectric Project**

Burlington elected officials and staff continue to work in close partnership with Skagit County, the Dike Districts, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and La Conner on a range of flood issues, with the goal of reducing flood risk in Burlington and the entire region.

## **I. FEMA Flood Map Appeal**

In December 2009, FEMA Region X released its long-awaited preliminary flood maps; however, the maps were withdrawn after just a few days when it became apparent the maps contained numerous errors. FEMA released a modified work product July 1, 2010, initially stating it expected the “official” preliminary map release to occur about the end of September. The “official” release date was delayed until the end of December, 2010. This was a key date because the “official” release triggered a deadline of March 31, 2011 to appeal the preliminary maps. Burlington partnered with Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and La Conner to develop the appeal information, which can be viewed on Burlington’s or Mount Vernon’s web site. The appeal package was submitted on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. FEMA acknowledged timely submission.

In July of 2010, FEMA released word of a new process local communities could access as part of an appeal. The new process, called a “Scientific Resolution Panel,” or SRP, consists of a panel of experts that can be formed at the request of the local community if FEMA and the local community cannot agree on the information presented in the appeal package. The panels, organized and overseen by the National Institute of Building Sciences, will consist of either three or five members, with the larger number of panelists chosen by the local community, and the smaller number by FEMA.

According to FEMA, “the SRPs will provide communities with an efficient, independent way of resolving conflicting technical data while ensuring that the best science is being utilized for their Flood Insurance Rate Maps.”

On March 10, 2011, just 20 days before the Cities’ appeal package deadline, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate issued a policy letter indicating that the longstanding “levee failure” policy would be rescinded. This was the policy which required flood mapping behind uncertified levees to be conducted as if the levees did not exist at all. This policy did affect the technical information we included in the appeal; however, most of the appeal information was related to correcting the Skagit River hydrologic analysis previously performed by the Corps of Engineers, under contract with FEMA.

Nevertheless, FEMA’s levee failure policy change cast doubt about whether FEMA would permit the flood appeal partnership to proceed to meet the SRP.

On June 27, 2011, after hearing no word from FEMA about the appeal package that had been submitted three months earlier, the cities wrote to FEMA and requested a Scientific Resolution Panel be formed. Although FEMA was obligated to consult with the cities about the content of the appeal package information, the cities received no response from FEMA after submitting the appeal. Facing a deadline for formally requesting the Scientific Resolution Panel, the cities sent the request on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the cities received a letter from FEMA’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation, Sandra Knight, indicating FEMA had decided not to convene a Scientific Resolution Panel as requested by the cities, citing the new “with levee” modeling approach and the need for FEMA to issue new maps, effectively re-setting the appeal process.

In early November, 2011, at a conference sponsored by the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, the cities’ attorney met informally with Sandra Knight and her staff to request FEMA reconsider the decision of the September 28<sup>th</sup> letter.

*continued on next page*

## **FLOOD UPDATE — continued from page 11**

It is the cities' position that the main issue to be decided in the appeal is the validity of the Skagit River hydrology, and that issue is separate from the impacts of changes to the hydraulic model. As of the date of this letter, FEMA is considering our request.

A link to the appeal report is available on Burlington's Public Works web page.

### **2. Skagit River Hydrology**

It is our hope that through the FEMA appeal process, utilizing the Scientific Resolution Panel, that our technical research and information will change FEMA's official stand on the overstated hydrology. Our technical arguments are very compelling and it is our expectation that an impartial panel of experts will reverse FEMA's current position regarding overstated Skagit river hydrology. As stated above, the question of whether FEMA will convene a Scientific Resolution Panel and permit this issue to be decided, is still in doubt at the time of this report.

We are, of course, keeping an eye on climate change research and the impact climate change may have on Skagit River flooding, as well as sea level rise and its impact on flooding. Research on these issues is ongoing and has produced some broad preliminary findings. More information about the potential impact of climate change on the Skagit basin can be found at the Skagit Climate Science Consortium web page, <http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/about-us/> . Future flood projects will include an assessment of the impacts of climate change.

### **3. Dike District 12 Levee Certification Project**

Dike 12 has continued work to reinforce its levees to the expected flood elevations associated with the Corps of Engineers hydrology. This work will continue for at least the next decade. The Dike District will be adding additional material to the back slope of its levee system in accordance with the recommendations of a geotechnical study completed in 2009.



### **4. Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study**

The Corps of Engineers recently halted most work on the Skagit General Investigation Study, due to lack of federal funding. However, before the project was put on hold, the Corps conducted a public outreach process called Feasibility Scoping. This outreach process provided a formal opportunity for the City of Burlington, as well as interested citizens, municipal organizations, and agencies to comment on the Skagit General Investigation study. The Corps provided a report synthesizing all of the public input received. The report, as well as all of the comments and information submitted by Burlington and other interested parties can be viewed at the Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers web page, [http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc\\_list.cfm?sitename=SKAGITVALLEYM&pagename=2011\\_Skagit\\_GI](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc_list.cfm?sitename=SKAGITVALLEYM&pagename=2011_Skagit_GI) . This new repository is an excellent source of technical information and we recommend you take a look if you are interested in in-depth information about Skagit River flooding.

As of the date of this newsletter, there is no schedule for completing the Skagit River General Investigation Study.

## 5. Potential BNSF Skagit River Bridge Replacement

Although the right set of circumstances have not yet presented themselves to obtain funding for bridge replacement, we have made progress with the help of our neighbors in Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley. Over the past six months, BNSF and Amtrak have both provided letters of support for replacing this bridge. Therefore, bridge replacement now has the support of the Skagit Council of Governments; our State legislative delegations from the 10<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> districts (as well as other districts north of King County; the Washington State Department of Transportation (and, therefore, the Governor's Office), and our Federal Congressional delegation. Support of the concept is short of support for providing funding; however, we believe we are making progress toward getting the bridge replaced. The general approach is to first fund the environmental investigation and preliminary engineering work (estimated to cost \$11.3 million); then, move forward to find the construction funding (estimated to be \$70 - \$80 million). Replacing this bridge is critically important to reduce Burlington's flood risk, because if large debris blockages occur upstream of the old bridge (as happened in 1995), water can back up as much as five feet, making upstream flooding much worse and potentially enabling flood water to enter Burlington from the Sterling area along the Gages Slough corridor.



1995 Skagit River Flood – BNSF Bridge failure



Concept for BNSF Skagit River Bridge replacement

## 6. Flood Storage in the Baker Hydroelectric Project

A concept that came out of the Puget Sound Energy Baker Hydroelectric Project relicensing process was to draw down the reservoirs in advance of a flood-producing weather system. This idea was accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and FERC directed PSE to provide a report about the viability of this concept within three years of the license being issued. That report was submitted in October, 2011.

The City developed its own recommendation for an imminent flood drawdown protocol, which is included here. We believe we have put forward a reasonable and responsible approach which is good for flood control, good for aquatic resources, and good for power generation. **We believe achieving a protocol enabling the Baker reservoirs to be drawn down in advance of a Skagit flood is a critically important issue for Burlington.**

*continued on next page*





**2003 Skagit River Flood – Upper Baker and Lower Baker dams spilling water after the Skagit River flood peak**



# Baker Hydroelectric Project Imminent Flood Reservoir Drawdown

Why Drawing Down the  
Reservoirs In Advance of a Skagit  
Basin Flood reduces Flood Risk,  
Improves Salmon Survival, and  
Increases Power Generation

Chal A. Martin, P.E.  
Public Works Director  
City of Burlington  
September 19, 2011

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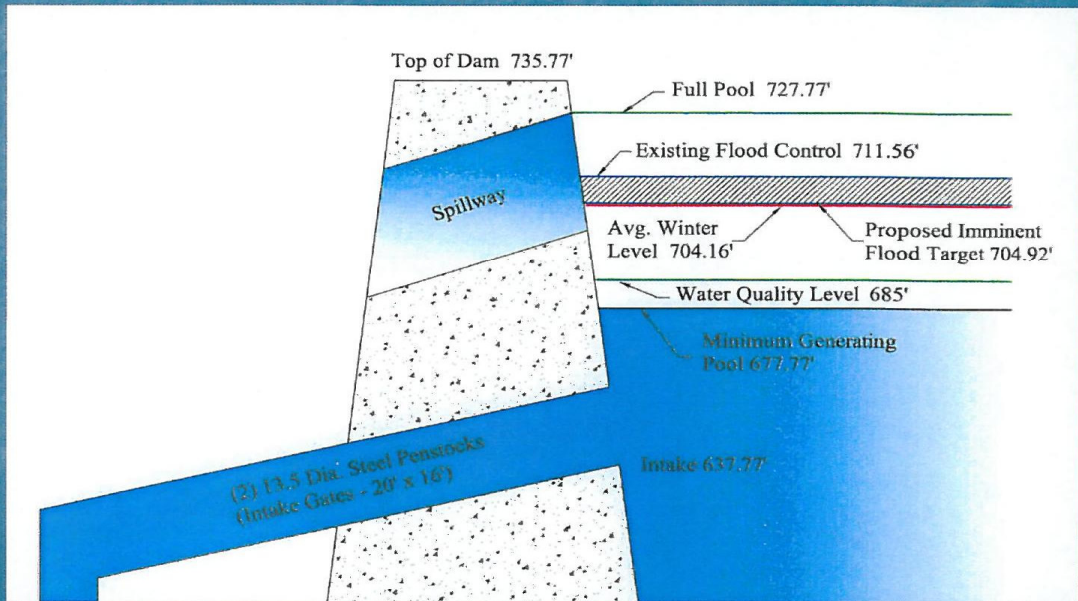
## Purpose of Advance Reservoir Drawdown

- Achieve zero outflow from Baker System during 24 hours of Skagit Flood Peak
- Reduce 100-year flood peak by 13,000 – 18,000 cfs (about 1.5 feet of Skagit River depth)
- Storage needed: 140,000 acre-feet
  - Same as “reservoir target elevations”

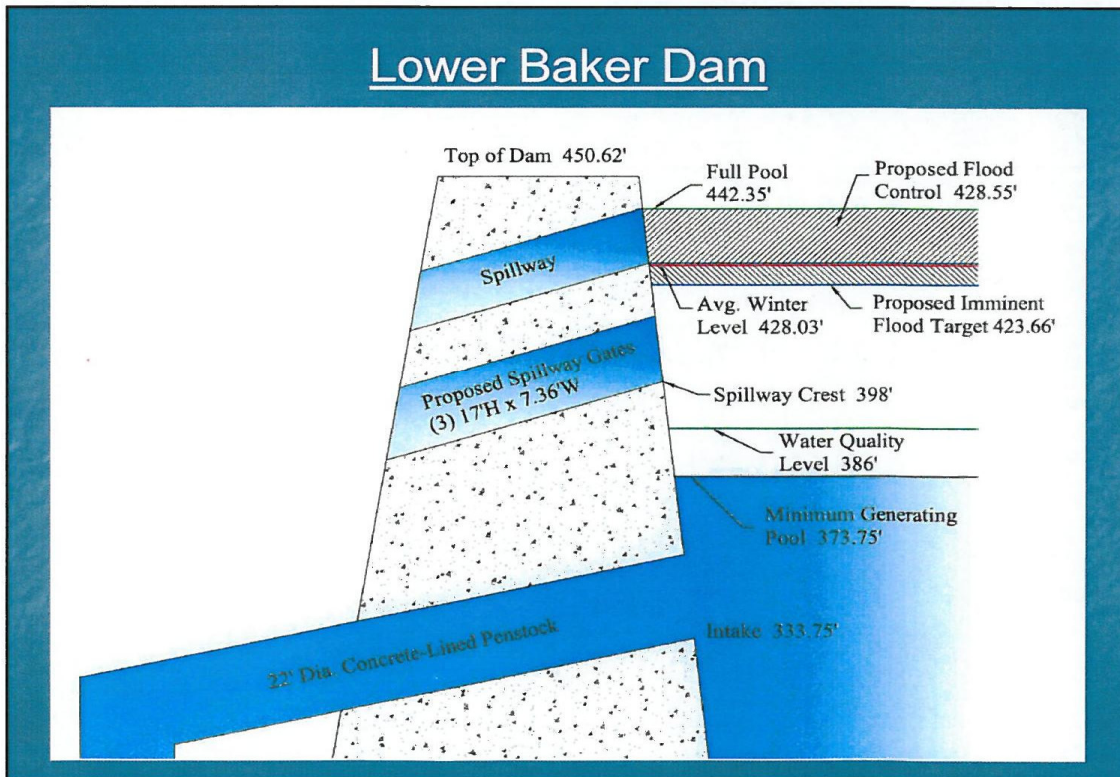
2



## Upper Baker Dam



## Lower Baker Dam





## How will advance drawdown work?

- Long range forecast indicates flood-producing storm is 5-7 days out
- Skagit County consults with emergency managers and Baker Aquatic Resource Group
  - Review reservoir levels, seriousness of possible storm, salmon spawning activity
  - Most times, precedent conditions will not immediately indicate drawdown is necessary
  - Initial decision to increase outflow can be changed based on updated forecast
  - Review and adapt outflow every 12-24 hours

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## How often and how long?

- How often:
  - Consider advance drawdown: 1-2 times per flood season
  - Implement advance drawdown: once every 3-4 years (this is an estimate)
- How long:
  - actual drawdown period and method can vary
  - given current forecasting technology, soonest initial drawdown might be expected to start is 5 days before weather system arrives

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Maximum Baker Outflow Necessary to Achieve Reservoir Target Elevations in Advance of a Skagit Flood							
Date	Storage IPP* (acre-ft)	Storage SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (acre-ft)	Storage Aquatics 1 Plus 1/2 Buffer** (acre-ft)	Outflow SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (cfs)	Outflow Average 5-Day Outflow Needed at Baker To Achieve 140,000 AF*** (cfs)	Outflow Exceeding SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (cfs)	Corresponding Skagit Rise
1-Oct	115,000	0	13,000	3,200	15,000	11,800	14 inches
15-Oct	115,000	25,000	38,000	3,200	12,500	9,300	11 inches
1-Nov	115,000	50,000	63,000	3,600	10,000	6,400	8 inches
15-Nov	115,000	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
1-Dec	no req't	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
15-Dec	no req't	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
1-Jan	no req't	74,000	87,000	5,600	7,600	2,000	2 inches

Notes:

- 1) Storage needed to capture Baker basin inflow for Skagit 100-year event is 140,000 AF (297 square miles)
- 2) Storage needed to capture Ross basin inflow for Skagit 100-year event is 150,000 AF (999 square miles)
- 3) Even though the Projects' flood control rule curves do not require maximum hard storage until late November, large Skagit floods occur in October. The Skagit flood of record occurred Oct 14-22, 2003
- 4) Downstream communities' flood control goal is to reduce Projects' outflow to zero 12 hours before/after Skagit flood peak at Concrete (see Skagit Project water control manual, page 7-8)

\* IPP (Interim Protection Plan) will sunset in 2013  
 \*\*Approximate storage represented by 1/2 of the Upper Baker operating buffer is 13,000 Acre-Feet  
 \*\*\*Assumes average basin inflow during the imminent flood drawdown period is 2,300 cfs

## Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, Skagit Annex, p. 182

The greatest impact on egg-to-fry survival is flooding during egg incubation. Severe floods (15-20 year events) reduce survival by 75-80% when compared to 1 year flooding events. Ten year events reduce survival by 33%. In the Skagit, flood events are increasing in frequency and magnitude, which has serious impacts on survival. Flood events are especially severe in the Lower Skagit where the full brunt of a flood must be absorbed.

## The Promise of Advance Reservoir Drawdown for Increased Fish Survival

On the front side, advance reservoir drawdown has a negative impact on spawning fish:

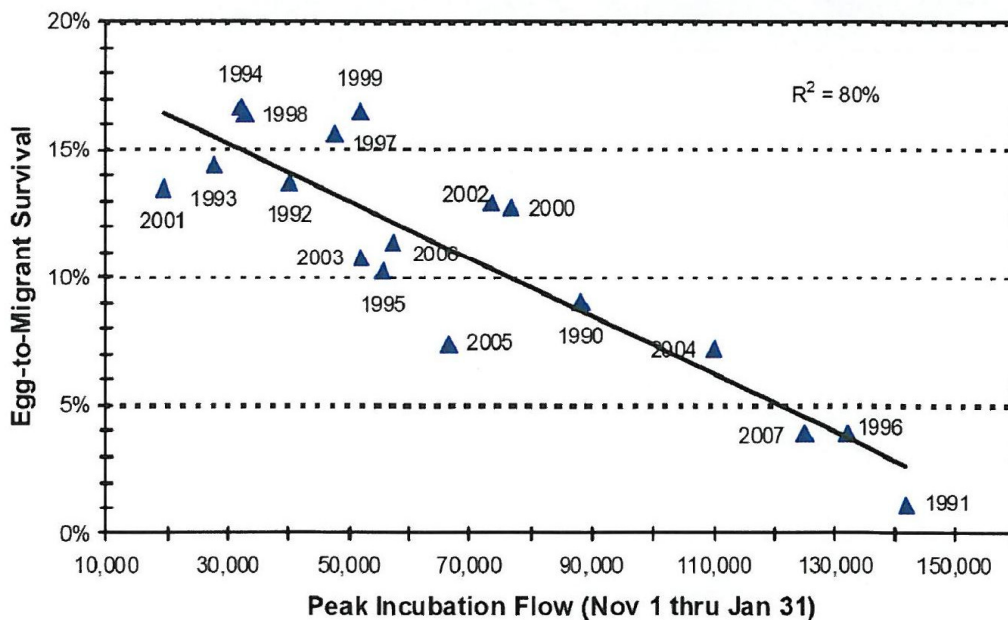
- Higher artificial water level may fool fish into spawning in areas that may later be dewatered
- Therefore, dessiccation of redds will be higher during the 5 days of advance drawdown (example assumes 100% mortality, although actual mortality would be expected to be much less)
- Spawning periods are about 60 days

On the back side, reservoir drawdown has a positive impact on spawning fish:

- Reduced peak flow dislodges fewer redds, significantly increasing egg-to-migrant survival

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### Egg-to-Migrant Survival (Kinsel et al, 2008)





## How Egg-to-Migrant Survival Increases with Imminent Flood Drawdown Protocol

For this example:

- 1,200 spawning females\*
- 5,500 eggs per female\*\*
- Spawning period is 60 days\*\*\*
- At peak Skagit 24-hour flow of 135,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival is 3.5%\*\*\*\*
- At peak Skagit 24-hour flow of 120,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival is 5.0%\*\*\*\*

\*Based on information provided in a personal communication with Wendy Cole, WDFW, 7 November 2011

\*\*2007 Skagit River Annual Salmon Production Evaluation, Annual Report., Table 14, page 28. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, December 2008 .

\*\*\*Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. Figure 2.4, page 42. January 19, 2007.

\*\*\*\* 2007 Skagit River Annual Salmon Production Evaluation, Annual Report. Figure 13, page 44. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, December 2008 .

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## How Egg-to-Migrant Survival Increases with Imminent Flood Drawdown Protocol

Condition with no advance drawdown:

- 1,200 spawning females at 5,500 eggs/female = 6,600,000 eggs
- Baker reservoirs are filled, so system passes inflow of 15,000 cfs at Skagit flood peak
- With peak 1-day flow of 135,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival = 3.5%, resulting in  $(.035)(6,600,000) = 231,000$  outmigrants

Condition with advance drawdown:

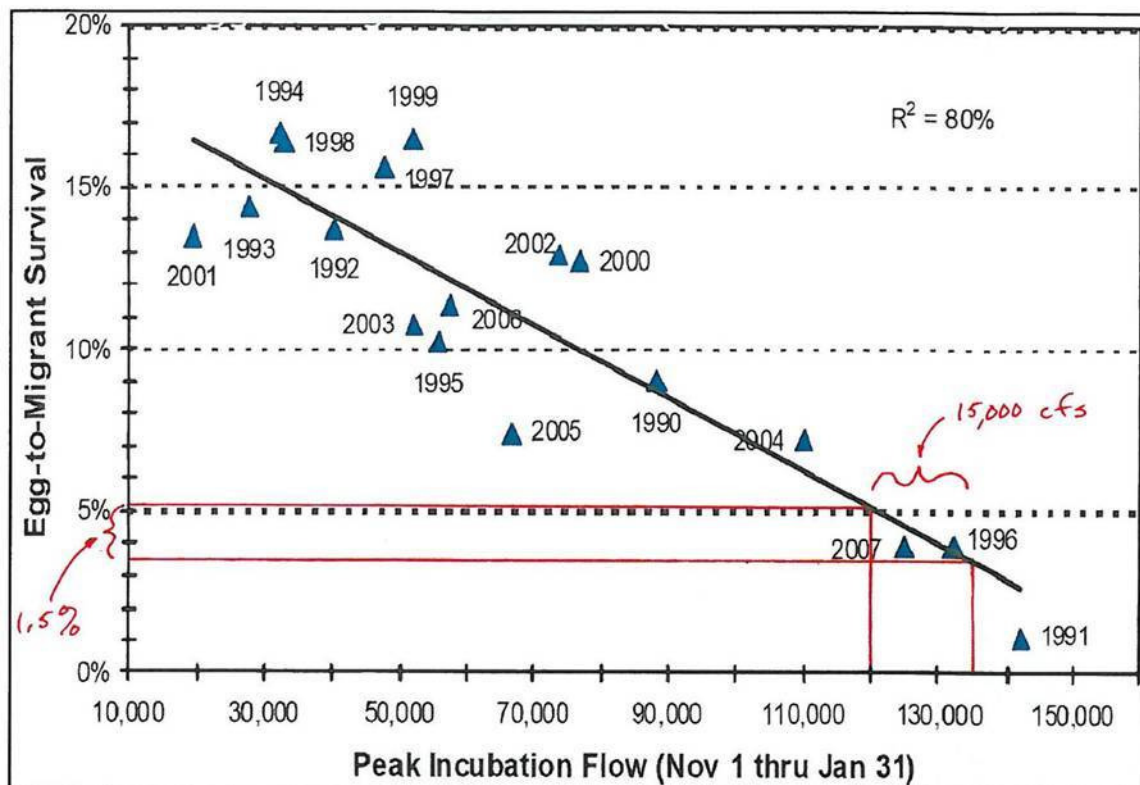
- 6,600,000 eggs reduced by 5 spawning days over a 60-day spawning period,  $(55/60)(6,600,000) = 6,050,000$  eggs (assuming 5 days continuous drawdown)
- Baker reservoirs have enough capacity to absorb all Baker inflow for 24 hours surrounding the Skagit flood peak, resulting in 15,000 cfs reduction in Skagit peak one-day flow
- In this case, egg-to-migrant survival is increased to 5% (based on 15,000 cfs peak flow reduction), resulting in  $(.05)(6,050,000) = 302,500$  outmigrants

Result: Increase of 71,500 outmigrants

- 31% increase

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## Power Generation is Improved

- POWER = (Density of Water) X (Height) X (Flow Rate) X (Gravity Constant) X (Efficiency)
- If, for Lower Baker Dam only, imminent flood drawdown protocols enable an average reservoir elevation 10 feet higher, then power generation could increase by 3.9%\*

\*Assume average LB reservoir elevation increases to 438 feet from 428 feet. Hydraulic head increases from 258' to 268' (438' - 170'(powerhouse elevation)), or 81.68 meters from 78.63 meters. Full pool elevation of LB is 442.35' NAVD.

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There continues to be much more going on with this issue than we have room to print here. Please feel free to contact Public Works Director Chal Martin at [cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us) any time you need the most recent information.



## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL



**December 27 — January 31**

Residents living inside the *city limits* of Burlington may haul their Christmas tree to the  
***“FREE Self-Service  
 Christmas Tree Disposal”***

December 27, 2011 to January 31, 2012 at the City Shop located at  
 951 S. Section Street

## Vacant Council Position Accepting Applications



In January 2012 the Mayor and City Council will be soliciting applications for the **At-Large City Council position** to be vacated by Steve Sexton, elected as Burlington's Mayor. Please check the city website @ **[www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us)** in January 2012 for the application process and deadlines.

Anyone who has ***lived inside city limits for at least one year*** and is a ***registered voter*** is eligible to be considered for the At-large City Council position. There are two years remaining in the At-Large term (2012-13).

## CITY CONTACTS

General Information..... 755-0531  
 Mayor Sexton..... 755-2395

### CITY COUNCIL

Bill Aslett..... 757-4539  
 Tonya Bieche..... 757-1020  
 Rick DeGloria..... 755-0675  
 Edie Edmundson ..... 757-4575  
 Chris Loving..... 755-9245  
 Ted Montgomery ..... 757-2786  
 At-Large ..... Vacant

### CITY DEPARTMENTS

Building ..... 755-0077  
 Buildings & Grounds ..... 757-3450  
 Cemetery ..... 707-2492  
 Finance ..... 755-0531  
 Fire (*business*) ..... 755-0261  
 Legal ..... 755-9473  
 Library ..... 755-0760  
 Municipal Court ..... 755-0492  
 Parks & Recreation..... 755-9649  
 Planning/Permit Center ..... 755-9717  
 Police (*business*) ..... 755-0921  
 Public Works/Engineering. .... 755-9715  
 Sewer..... 757-4085  
 Street ..... 757-4214

**EMERGENCY..... 911**

**[www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us)**



**833 S. Spruce Street  
 Burlington WA 98233**

**Phone: 360-755-0531**

**Fax: 360-755-9565**

**E-mail: [cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us)**

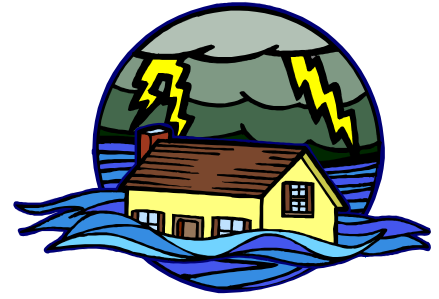
*Serving you with pride!*





## FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #38

Fall 2011



***This Bulletin is being sent to you because your property has been determined to be in the floodplain.***

Everyone in Burlington should already be prepared for disaster because of living in the floodplain, and that includes earthquakes that could result in flooding in the event of a problem at one of the upriver dams. The City is updating the Emergency Plan to be more comprehensive, after the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and there is no doubt that everyone needs to keep that Emergency Kit updated and have your family plan organized at all times! Plans are in the works to greatly expand emergency notices in cooperation with the 911 center.

Burlington is in partnership with Dike District #12 as work continues on enlarging the levees so that they will qualify for 100-year flood protection under federal standards. The final project design will add height to the improved levees as needed to comply with the final results of decisions made on the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps that are now in the appeal process. The timeline for changes to the maps is uncertain because of the appeals and because FEMA is changing their methodology for setting the 100-year Base Flood Elevations. This change will hopefully lead to more accurate results and there will be some credit given in the computer model for the existing levees.

### Local Flood Hazard Areas

There are three flood zones in the City Limits of Burlington, the Floodway (river side of the levee), the 100 Year Flood Zone and the Special Flood Risk Zone. Most of Burlington is in the 100 Year Flood Zone.

The Special Flood Risk Zone includes all land within 300 feet of the landward toe of the levee. All structures must be designed so that floodwaters can pass underneath and there is no occupied space below one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, unless the site is within 100 feet of the levee where nothing can be built. All property in Gages Slough that is three feet or more below the 100 year flood elevation was designated as Special Flood Risk in the mid-1980's as part of a negotiating process over the uniquely complex Skagit River delta area when the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were finalized. The status of Gages Slough will be revisited when new base flood elevation maps are finalized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The goal for Burlington is to get credit for the levees when the 100-year flood elevations are established on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This is only possible if the levees are certified as having 100-year flood protection and the work is accredited by FEMA. The process will take quite a few more years to complete, and in the meanwhile, efforts to get FEMA to use the most accurate data in setting new base flood elevations are underway, with an appeal in process. It is a very difficult challenge because of the federal regulatory framework.

Levee enlargement work started in 1990 and earthwork is still underway. Land acquisition is the key focus for Dike District #12 who is planning to complete the work on their own, to set the levees back through the three-bridge corridor (Railroad bridge, Old 99 bridge, and Interstate 5 bridge) to protect the urban areas of Burlington and Mount Vernon in a 100-year flood event.

## Flood Safety & Disaster Preparedness

**Every home needs to be prepared and STAY PREPARED!** Review your Flood procedure at home with your household and take the time to put your Emergency Preparedness Kit together, or check your flashlight batteries in your existing kit. Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food and first aid kit are the bare minimums, along with flashlights. In addition to the basic three day supply of food and water, consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks. Keep a small “grab and go” kit for your place of work with food, water, first aid supplies. For the emergency kit in the car, add flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.

There is an excellent FEMA publication entitled “Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” available. This publication offers disaster information for natural hazards, technological hazards and terrorism. It will guide you for preparation in advance and recovery from a disaster. If you want to order a free copy for your home, call 1-800-480-2520. On the internet, <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/> is the website link. A copy is available in the Burlington Public Library. **THIS COVERS THE BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT IN DETAIL.**

**Earthquakes are an example of a disaster that cannot be predicted and that is not seasonal. Be prepared at all times!**

## Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standard. The major issue is elevating the structure one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, along with all mechanical equipment, ductwork and electrical equipment, and installing properly located and sized vents. However, if you are located in the Gages Slough Special Flood Risk Zone, “breakaway walls” are required below the 100 year flood elevation, and they must be designed by a licensed structural engineer.

## Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Filling property to increase elevation in the floodplain is allowed today, but the long term goal is to minimize fill to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Burlington supports habitat improvements in the floodplain, and the Gages Slough restoration projects are a major effort in the city. Storm water quality monitoring in Burlington clearly shows that better water quality treatment systems are needed and this is a major focus of the surface water utility. The use of natural rain gardens is one of the ideas included in the low impact development approach that is being promoted as a way to get storm water runoff back into the ground, and to clean up water quality.

The Gages Slough habitat management plan has identified locations for restoration and water quality improvement projects, and one new mitigation project was planted this spring at the site of an old garbage dump, funded by the Burlington Parks Foundation. The community is working towards the goal of clean water entering the Skagit River as the top priority, along with improving public access to habitat areas. The most exciting project is the plan to build a nonmotorized trail along Gages Slough that extends under I-5 at Cascade Mall. This will combine water quality treatment with public access.

Protecting agricultural lands is part of protecting the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains. The city has implemented the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program which is a density bonus credit option that will help raise funds for farmland preservation in exchange for increased residential density in mixed use business and commercial areas of the city.

Key elements of the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan include protecting existing urban areas and preserving farmland and open space, looking at a variety of measures through the delta area to the mouth of the Skagit River, carefully coordinating and managing the hydroelectric power dams in the river system during a flood event, permanently moving homes and development rights out of the floodway, improving the environment for wildlife, and creating new public access opportunities to improve everyone's quality of life.

## Flood Warning System

Each and every citizen has a role to play in the event of a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!** The Burlington Flood Emergency Team prepares and coordinates activities needed to be ready for any flood event with the involvement of all the responsible agencies.

The procedure for warning the public is coordinated through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management. The Emergency Alert System is activated when necessary and includes the following local radio stations:

**KBRC 1430 AM ▪ KWLE 1340 AM ▪ KAPS 660 AM**

If evacuation is necessary, there will also be door-to-door notification and loudspeakers broadcasting from public safety vehicles in the neighborhood. Flaggers will be stationed at key intersections along the Evacuation Route to direct traffic.

Today, there are several neighborhoods in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor notification plan for very early warning. Contact your neighbors to ask if they want to be part of taking responsibility for each other, through a simple Telephone Tree, and call the Planning Department to get on the list. Now is the perfect time to identify your block captains and work together to **BE PREPARED**. The City is working with the 911 center on the latest ways to contact everyone in the event of an emergency, so stay tuned!

## Flood Insurance

Any property owner in the City of Burlington is eligible to obtain Flood Hazard Insurance, since the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Purchasing or refinancing a home will trigger a requirement for flood insurance by the lender. Coverage in the event of flooding is not included in typical homeowner's insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through your own agency or broker and includes flooding from ponding/drainage problems, snowmelt flooding, runoff on hillsides, or any flooding involving surface water. Contents of the building are a separate addition to the policy. There is limited coverage available for flood-related erosion and mudslide. Replacement cost coverage is available for principal residences. *Concerned about high Flood Insurance Rates?* You may qualify for a substantial reduction if you have an Elevation Certificate that shows your home or business is located at or above the 100 year flood elevation. You will have to retain the services of a Licensed Engineer to complete the paperwork, unless an Elevation Certificate is on file already with the Building Department, so please check here first.

**Lowering flood insurance premiums: Not only should the lowest floor be elevated but make sure that the floor of the crawlspace meets Technical Bulletin 11-01. Flood insurance rates are higher for buildings with crawlspaces that are two feet or more below the lowest adjacent exterior grade. Also make sure that all mechanical equipment is elevated above the Base Flood Elevation. This includes ductwork, heat pumps, furnaces, and propane tanks or oil tanks. Make sure any garages that have the floor below BFE are also vented along with the crawlspace.**

## Property Protection Measures

Let's get started on improving flood protection in your home! Staff is available to provide site specific flood and flood-related data, make site visits to review flood, drainage and sewer problems and to advise and assist on retrofitting techniques.

Stop by the Permit Center or give the Building Department a call at 755-0077 and let the city provide you with technical assistance on improving flood protection in your home. A site visit will be scheduled at your convenience to put a checklist together for home flood protection improvements. Staff is also available from the Public Works Department if additional assistance is needed to assist with drainage and sewer problems.

If you want to do your own research, here are some of the recommended FEMA technical bulletins that you will find at the Burlington Public Library and the Building Department for your use:

- ▶ Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting, FEMA-312
- ▶ Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Structures, FEMA-114
- ▶ Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage, FEMA-348

Take a few minutes to look over the possible areas where you may need to floodproof important parts of your home. A good example is protecting utility systems. This is one of the easiest and least expensive retrofitting methods to accomplish. Whether it is elevating, relocating, or anchoring; items such as electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, washers/dryers and heating fuel tanks are typically very cost effective items to upgrade. There are also recommendations for drainage and crawl space improvements.

If you have a newer (post 1985) home, check to be sure these items have been taken care of when the home was constructed. Identify the potential for moving essential items and furniture to upper floors or the attic of your home. Materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing can already be on hand. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters and requires minimal storage space.



## Map Determination & Library Information

A map determination is figuring out where the 100 year flood elevation is located relative to the first occupied floor of your home or business. This information is used to prepare an Elevation Certificate. A citywide system of elevation benchmarks is maintained in the Building Department. An average of an additional \$200 in savings is possible on your flood insurance policy if you have an elevation certificate, in addition to the 25% rate reduction available in Burlington on October 1, 2009, as a result of community participation in the federal Community Rating System program. There are issues with lenders and flood insurance providers, and if you feel that you are not getting good information, please contact the city and we will try to help.

Information on other flood improvements, such as elevating your building, filling the crawl space, or floodproofing the lower portion, is available from the City and in the Burlington Public Library. There is a flood reference area in the library and staff will assist in directing you to the information you need.

Every land use newsletter includes a flood and natural hazard mitigation topic. Call the Planning Department at 755-9717 to get on the mailing list! Take the time to participate because your ideas will be taken seriously and you will have a say in the future of your community.

## Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you build, add fill, or make changes to your property and structures, be sure to contact the Planning and Building Departments to determine if any permits or approvals are necessary. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the insurance industry make frequent changes in the interpretation of floodplain standards, and you need to be sure you are using the most current information for any construction project.

**DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH  
FLOODED AREAS.**

## Drainage System Maintenance

This is the eighth year of water quality studies in Gages Slough and wetland restoration projects to improve water quality are a high priority. The commitment to long term maintenance, monitoring and habitat improvement is beginning to show, with the success of the first two wetland restoration projects that are beginning to mature. Clean water, efficient flow of water when needed, and a quality environment are the goals. Gages Slough and the Skagit River are important amenities for the community. Burlington is fortunate to have the Skagit Conservation District as a partner in Gages Slough water quality sampling. There is still a long way to go to deliver clean water to the River.

The drainage maintenance and inspection program is part of flood hazard mitigation. Every year, all detention ponds, pipes, catch basins and other drainage control structures are inspected and corrections required as needed to ensure that the capacity of the ponds is maintained and that the ability of the system to clean the storm water is retained, in addition to inspection and maintenance of the city street system. The public drainage system, including culverts, pipes and ditches is well maintained. Gages Slough is maintained at each street intersection and culvert location. A well maintained drainage system that functions in small storms will provide the best assistance possible in large storms and floods, by quickly and efficiently carrying the excess water out of town.

*Thank you for respecting the signs that state "No Dumping – thank you" at public access points to Gages Slough! Each property owner along the Slough is responsible for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access to the River can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. You may report illegal dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough, by calling the Planning Department at 755-9717, or in writing.*

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**Planning Department**

**833 S. Spruce Street**

**Burlington WA 98233**

**Phone: (360) 755-9717**

**[bplanning@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:bplanning@ci.burlington.wa.us)**